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**ABSTRACT**

A method is described for enhancing a color digital image by first identifying a local neighborhood of pixels including a pixel of interest and then using the color values of one or more of the pixels from the local neighborhood to

5 calculate a color weighting factor for the pixel of interest, where the color weighting factor is a near continuous function of the location of the pixel of interest in a color space. A spatial filter is applied to the values of pixels from the local neighborhood to calculate a first signal value and a second signal value for the pixel of interest. The color weighting factor is then used to modify either the

10 first value or the second value, and an enhanced pixel value is then generated for the pixel of interest from the first value and second values. The process is then repeated for other pixels in the color digital image.

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